Report on Bofors Case

3450. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up a Committee to vet the Special Investigation Team (SIT)'s report on Befores case;

(b) if so, the composition thereof; and

(c) the time limit fixed for completion of vetting of the report by the SPI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c) The Government is not required to vet the Investigation report of the CBI. Any recommendation made by the CBI which requires consideration by the Government as per the provisions of law is submitted to the Government. In the Bofors Case, the CBI has submitted a report with its recommendations to the Government. Further action will be as per the provisions of law. A committee of senior officers has been directed to monitor the expeditious processing of the case as also to provide inter ministenal coordination.

Corruption Cases

3451. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of corruption, dishonesty and assets disproportionate to the income of civil servants investigated by the Vigilance Department of Ministry in 1995-96;

(b) the number of officers, grade-wise, involved in the above cases;

(c) the number of complaints of corruption and dishonesty received during 1995-96 and the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Vigilance Department initiate action suo moto against the staff suspected to be dishonest and corrupt;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Ministry have made any review of the functioning of powers of Vigilance Section under their control; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Cases of corruption and assets disproportionate to the income of Civil Servants are investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation. Vigilance Unit of this Ministry does not investigate such cases. 34 cases of dishonesty involving 55 officers were investigated by the Vigilance Unit of the Ministry in 1995-96.

(b) Grade-wise details of officers involved in the above cases are as under :

Group - A	:	30
Group - B	:	14
Group - C	:	10
Group - D	:	01

(c) During the year 1995-96, 46 complaints alleging corruption and dishonesty were received in the Vigilance Unit of the Ministry. Out of these, 12 complaints were closed after investigation; 2 complaints were referred to the CBI; 10 complaints are at various stages of investigation, 3 complaints were referred to the Central Vigilance Commission for their advice; minor penalty proceedings were initiated in 5 complaints; major penalty proceedings were initiated in 6 complaints; warnings were issued in 4 complaints and Attached/Subordinate Offices were directed to initiate regular Departmental action for major/minor penalty in 4 complaints.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Trade with Central Asian Republics

3452. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India, Iran and Turkmenistan have signed a key transit agreements to propel trade with resource-rice Central Asian Republics;

(b) if so, the main points of the agreement; and

(c) the extent to which the transit agreement has helped in improving the trade relations with the Central Asian countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir. India, Iran and Turkmenistan signed a Trilateral Agreement on International Transit of Goods at the level of Foreign Ministers on 22 February, 1997 in Tehran.

(b) A suo moto statement was made by the External Affairs Minister before the Lok Sabha on 26 February, 1997, a copy of which is enclosed as Statement.

(c) The Trilateral Agreement on International Transit of Goods provides various facilities for Indian traders who use the Iranian transit route for trade with Turkmenistan and other Central Asian Republics. Indian Businessmen have been increasingly using the route.